In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition intended to be applied to the surfaces of freshly placed or freshly demolded mortars and/or concretes, before the beginning of setting, for the purpose of rendering them both synergistic, in order to prevent the evaporation of the water necessary for their setting and for their hardening and to create, on said surfaces, high adhesiveness of the finishing materials, which composition is provided in the form of an aqueous emulsion comprising at least one paraffin wax alone or in combination with at least one other hydrocarbon compound, ~~characterized in that it is composed~~ comprising:

a) ~~of~~ at least one paraffin wax of petroleum or synthetic origin including, as a mixture, saturated and unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbons of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is at least equal to 30 and for which the melting point is between 40°C and 75°C;

b) ~~and/or of~~ at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear ~~and/~~or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic ~~and/~~or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains, alone or as a mixture, of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is less than 30; ~~and/or~~

c) ~~of~~ at least one hydrocarbon compound which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a saturated ~~and/~~or unsaturated fatty acid with an alcohol having from one to five hydric functional groups;

d) ~~of~~ at least one latex which is formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer ~~and/~~or copolymer chosen from the group consisting of homopolymers of acrylic acid, of methacrylic acid and of the esters of these acids, the ester group of which is a C_1 to C_{12} alkyl group, copolymers of acrylic acid, of methacrylic acid ~~and/~~or of the esters of these acids, the ester group of which is a C_1 to C_{12} alkyl group, copolymers of vinyl and of acrylic acid or of methacrylic acid, copolymers of vinyl and of C_1 to C_{12} esters, copolymers of acrylic or methacrylic acid, copolymers of acrylic acid or of methacrylic acid and of acrylic or methacrylic esters, styrene/acrylic or methacrylic copolymers, copolymers of ethylene and of vinyl acetate, copolymers of ethylene and of acrylic or methacrylic acid, acrylic/urethane copolymers and styrene/butadiene copolymers; and

e) ~~of~~ at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin.

2. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the paraffin wax is chosen from the group consisting of alkanes, ~~and/or~~ alkenes, ~~taken alone or as a mixture~~ and mixtures thereof, which are saturated ~~and/~~or unsaturated hydrocarbons of petroleum or synthetic origin of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} in which n ~~takes~~ has a value ~~preferably~~ of between $30 \leq n \leq 120$.

3. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~claims 1 and~~ claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the paraffin wax has a melting point ~~preferably~~ of between 50°C and 70°C.

4. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the paraffin wax has a density of between 0.85 and 0.95 ~~and preferably of between 0.88 and 0.92~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one ~~other~~ hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin ~~(b) and/~~or the at least one hydrocarbon compound ~~(c)~~ which is an oil formed of at least one ester accompanying the ~~compound (a) which is the~~ at least one paraffin wax of petroleum or synthetic origin is chosen from the group consisting of natural or synthetic hydrocarbon waxes and~~/or~~ oils.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one hydrocarbon compound ~~of type (b)~~ which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains is a hydrocarbon oil of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} ~~and/~~or C_nH_{2n} in which n preferably takes a value of between 10 and 25.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one hydrocarbon compound ~~of type (b)~~ which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains is chosen from hydrocarbon oils having a kinematic viscosity of between 5 and 500 mm^2/s.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one hydrocarbon compound ~~of type (b)~~ which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains is chosen from hydrocarbon oils having a density of between 0.83 and 0.97.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one hydrocarbon compound ~~of type (c)~~ which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a saturated ~~and/~~or unsaturated fatty acid chosen from the group of the C_8 to C_{24} fatty acids with a mono-, di- or trihydric alcohol.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fatty acids are chosen from the group consisting of caprylic, capric, lauric, myristic, palmitic, stearic, arachidic, behenic, lignoceric, palmitoleic, oleic, gadoleic, erucic, linoleic, linolenic and isolinolenic acids.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~either one of claims 9 and~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alcohols having from one to five hydric functional groups participating in the preparation of the hydrocarbon compound ~~of type (c)~~ which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol are chosen from the group consisting of C_2 to C_{20} alkanols and alkenols.

12. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the monohydric alcohol is chosen from the group consisting of ethanol, propanol, butanol, pentanol, stearyl alcohol and oleyl alcohol~~,~~; the dihydric alcohol is chosen from the group consisting of propanediol, butanediol, pentanediol, hexanediol, heptanediol, octanediol, nonanediol, decanediol, undecanediol and dodecanediol~~,~~ and other dihydroxyalkanes or -alkenes~~,~~; and the trihydric alcohol is chosen from the group consisting of glycerol, butanetriol, pentanetriol, hexanetriol, heptanetriol, octanetriol, nonanetriol, decanetriol, undecanetriol,

dodecanetriol and other trihydroxyalkanes or -alkenes, propane-1tri-2di-ol.

13. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pulverulent inorganic filler ~~(e)~~ is chosen from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, clays and kaolin, alumina, ~~pyrogenic or nonpyrogenic~~ micro silica, silica fume and barium sulfate, used alone or as a mixture.

14. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pulverulent inorganic filler has a median particle size of between 1 and 100 μm and a distribution of between 0 μm and 300 μm.

15. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~either one of claims 13 and~~ claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pulverulent inorganic filler has a BET specific surface of at least 1 m^2/g ~~and preferably of between 20 m^2/g and 700 m^2/g~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pulverulent organic filler ~~(e)~~ is chosen from the group consisting of ~~the~~ powders formed of polymers, copolymers, elastomers, thermoplastics ~~or~~ and thermosets.

17. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein:

- the ~~component (a), formed of~~ at least one paraffin wax~~,~~ is present in said ~~compositions~~ composition in a proportion of 2% to 90% by weight~~, preferably of 5% to 60% by weight and very preferably of 5% to 40% by weight~~;

- the ~~component (b), formed of~~ at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains, is present in said ~~compositions~~ composition in a proportion of 0% to 90% by weight~~, preferably of 8% to 40% by weight and very preferably of 9% to 30% by weight~~;

- the ~~component (c), which is a hydrocarbon compound different from (b),~~ at least one hydrocarbon compound which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol is present in said compositions in a proportion of 0% to 90% by weight~~, preferably of 10% to 50% by weight and very preferably of 15% to 40% by weight~~;

- the ~~component (d), which is~~ at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer ~~and/~~or copolymer as an emulsion in water, is present in said compositions in a proportion of 10% to 45% by weight of solids content ~~and preferably of 15% to 35% by weight of solids content~~;

- the ~~component (e), which is formed of~~ at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin, is present in said compositions in a proportion of 0.01% by weight to 10% by weight ~~and preferably of 0.02% by weight to 5% by weight~~;

- and water: q.s. for 100% by weight.

18. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 15, ~~characterized in that it is composed~~ wherein the composition comprises:

- ~~of~~ 2% to 90% by weight of ~~a component (a) in the solids content state formed of~~ at least one paraffin wax of petroleum or synthetic origin is in the solid state including, as a mixture, saturated and unsaturated aliphatic hydrocarbons of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is at least equal to 30 and for which the melting point is between 40°C and 75°C;

- ~~of~~ 5% to 90% by weight of ~~a component (b) formed of~~ at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear ~~and/~~or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic ~~and/~~or naphthenic origin ~~which~~ are hydrocarbon chains, alone or as a mixture, of general formulae C_nH_{2n+2} and C_nH_{2n} for which n is less than 30; ~~and/or~~

- ~~of~~ 5% to 90% by weight of ~~a component (c) comprising~~ at least one hydrocarbon compound which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a saturated ~~and/~~or unsaturated fatty acid with a mono-, di- or trihydric alcohol;

- ~~of~~ 10% to 45% by weight of ~~component (d) comprising~~ at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer;

- ~~of~~ 0.01% by weight to 10% by weight of ~~a component (e) formed of~~ at least one pulverulent inorganic filler with a BET specific surface at least equal to 1 m^2/g;

- and ~~of~~ water: q.s. for 100% by weight.

19. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 18, ~~characterized in that it is composed~~ wherein the composition comprises:

- ~~preferably of~~ from 5% to 60% by weight ~~and very preferably of 5% to 40% by weight~~ of at least one paraffin wax of petroleum or synthetic origin ~~the component (a)~~;

- ~~preferably of~~ from 8% to 40% by weight ~~and very preferably of 9% to 30% by weight~~ of at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains ; ~~the component (b); and/or~~

- ~~preferably of~~ from 10% to 50% by weight ~~and very preferably of 15% to 40% by weight~~ of at least one hydrocarbon compound which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol; ~~the component (c);~~

- ~~and preferably of~~ from 15% to 35% by weight of solids content of at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer; ~~the component (d);~~

- ~~and preferably of~~ from 0.02% to 5% by weight of at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic

or organic origin; ~~the component (e);~~

- and of water: q.s. for 100%.

20. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~either one of claims 18 and~~ claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ratio by weight, as dry active material, of the total of the oils and of the paraffin wax present is at least equal to 0.25~~, is preferably at least equal to 0.63 and is very preferably between 0.64 and 9~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said composition ~~compositions~~, in the emulsion form, ~~have~~ has a dry matter content of between 10% by weight and 60% by weight ~~and preferably of between 30% by weight and 50% by weight~~.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 21, characterized in that ~~it~~ the process comprises ~~the~~ successive ~~stages of~~ introduction of the various components of the composition into a preparation region subjected to stirring, the contents of which can be heated ~~and/~~or cooled, ~~these stages being~~ comprising the steps of:

i) ~~the introduction~~ introducing into said preparation region~~, according to the calculated amount, of the~~ a pre-determined amount of water ~~necessary to create the emulsion and then optionally the introduction of~~ and adding an emulsifying agent~~, the first mixture being subjected to vigorous stirring during the time needed to produce a homogeneous medium~~;

ii) stirring the water and emulsifying agent to produce a homogeneous medium;

~~ii)~~iii) ~~the introduction, according to the calculated amounts, of the~~ adding a mixture of the at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin and the at least one hydrocarbon compound which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a saturated or unsaturated

fatty acid and ~~hydrocarbon compounds of the components (b) and/or (c), forming a second mixture, which is subjected to the same vigorous~~ stirring ~~during the time needed~~ for a sufficient time to produce a first emulsion;

~~iii)~~iv) ~~the introduction, according to the calculated amount and with gentle stirring, of~~ adding a pre-determined amount of the paraffin wax into the first emulsion while stirring ~~second mixture:~~

- wherein the paraffin wax heated beforehand to a temperature sufficient to cause the paraffin wax to melt and to convert the paraffin wax into the emulsion state, when the paraffin wax is introduced in the form of a very fine powder; or

- wherein the paraffin wax is at ambient temperature, when the paraffin wax is introduced in the form of an aqueous emulsion;

and ~~maintenance of gentle~~ stirring ~~during the prolonged~~ for a sufficient time ~~needed~~ to form ~~the~~ a second emulsion, with optional cooling of the second emulsion;

~~iv)~~v) adding to the second emulsion a pre-determined amount of ~~the introduction into the mixture resulting from iii), according to the calculated amount and with gentle stirring, of the component (d), which is~~ the at least one latex, and ~~subjected to gentle~~ stirring ~~during the~~ for a sufficient time ~~needed~~ to produce ~~the aqueous~~ a third emulsion of the paraffin, the hydrocarbons and the latex components; ~~formed of the components (a), (b), (c) and (d);~~

~~v)~~vi) adding to the third emulsion a predetermined amount of the at least one perverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin and stirring for a sufficient time to form a homogenous aqueous emulsion. ~~the introduction into the emulsion resulting from iv), according to the calculated amount and with vigorous stirring, of the component (e), which is the inorganic filler;~~

~~vi)~~ ~~and then subjection of the emulsion resulting from the second mixture converted to an~~

~~aqueous emulsion resulting from v) to gentle stirring for a prolonged time in order to homogenize the aqueous emulsion formed comprising all the components.~~

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The application~~ A method of use of the composition as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to~~ claim 21 in protecting against evaporation of water and increasing the adhesion of the surfaces of freshly placed or freshly demolded mortars and/or concretes comprising spraying at least one of said compositions, as aqueous emulsions, over said surfaces in a proportion of a working load deposited per unit of surface area of between 50 g/m^2 and 150 g/m^2 in order to achieve complete protection.

24. (New) The composition of claim 4, wherein the paraffin wax has a density of between 0.88 and 0.92.

25. (New) The composition of claim 15, wherein the pulverulent inorganic filler has a BET specific surface of between 20 m^2/g and 700 m^2/g.

26. (New) The composition of claim 17, wherein:

- the at least one paraffin wax is present in said composition in a proportion of 5% to 60% by weight;
- the at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains is present in said composition in a proportion of 8% to 40% by weight;
- the at least one hydrocarbon compound which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol is present in said compositions in a proportion of 10% to 50% by weight;
- the at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer or copolymer as an emulsion in water is present in said compositions in a proportion of 15% to 35% by weight of solids content;
- the at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin is present in said compositions in a proportion of 0.02% by weight to 5% by weight;
- and water: q.s. for 100% by weight.

27. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein:

- the at least one paraffin wax is present in said composition in a proportion of 5% to 40% by weight;
- the at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains is present in said composition in a proportion of 9% to 30% by weight;
- the at least one hydrocarbon compound which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol is present in said compositions in a proportion of 15% to 40% by weight;
- the at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer or copolymer as an emulsion in water is present in said compositions in a proportion of 15% to 35% by weight of solids content;
- the at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic origin is present in said compositions in a proportion of 0.02% by weight to 5% by weight;
- and water: q.s. for 100% by weight.

28. (New) The composition of claim 19, wherein the composition comprises:

- from 5% to 40% by weight of at least one paraffin wax of petroleum or synthetic origin;

- from 9% to 30% by weight of at least one hydrocarbon compound which is a linear or cyclic hydrocarbon oil of aliphatic or naphthenic origin formed of hydrocarbon chains;

- from 15% to 40% by weight of at least one hydrocarbon compound which is an oil formed of at least one ester resulting from the condensation reaction of a fatty acid and an alcohol;

- from 15% to 35% by weight of solids content of at least one latex formed of a colloidal aqueous emulsion of at least one polymer;

- from 0.02% to 5% by weight of at least one pulverulent filler of inorganic or organic

origin;

- and of water: q.s. for 100%.

29. (New) The composition of claim 20, wherein the ratio by weight, as dry active material, of the total of the oils and of the paraffin wax present is at least equal to 0.63.

30. (New) The composition of claim 29, wherein the ratio by weight, as dry active material, of the total of the oils and of the paraffin wax present is between 0.64 and 9.

31. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition, in the emulsion form, has a dry matter content of between 30% by weight and 50% by weight.